

## Multiple Choice Quiz 4

### HOW TO READ A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

There is one correct response for each question.

1. When searching the literature when conducting a systematic review, which of the following apply?  
☐ a. A selective search of some databases should be carried out.  
☐ b. Medline is the most common database for medical related research.  
☐ c. In order to be as objective as possible it is best if only one database is searched.  
☐ d. It is not appropriate to check the references of articles found by the initial search strategy.
2. Which of the following is NOT true regarding a meta-analysis?  
☐ a. A meta-analysis is a statistical pooling technique which combines the results of all the studies included in the review.  
☐ b. The meta-analysis may be performed after the systematic review procedure has been undertaken.  
☐ c. The meta-analysis allows for a number of smaller studies to be combined so that one big study is undertaken.  
☐ d. This method of statistical pooling is an accepted procedure by all in the research community.
3. When performing a systematic review, which of the following should be considered?  
☐ a. A systematic review is a standardised and objective procedure.  
☐ b. A systematic review contains an explicit statement of objectives, materials, and methods and has been conducted according to explicit and reproducible methodology.  
☐ c. If different investigators in a different setting conduct the review then the same results should occur.  
☐ d. All of the above.
4. When stating the objective of a systematic review, which of the following should be included?  
☐ a. The population.  
☐ b. The intervention.  
☐ c. The outcomes.  
☐ d. All of the above.
5. Bias in systematic reviews can arise from which of the following?  
☐ a. Failure to locate all relevant studies.  
☐ b. Inclusion of poor quality studies.  
☐ c. Selective inclusion of favourable results.  
☐ d. All of the above.
6. When considering whether or not to include identified studies in a systematic review, which of the following apply?  
☐ a. Specific inclusion and exclusion criteria should be applied to located studies.  
☐ b. Two independent reviewers should assess each study for their inclusion or exclusion in the review.  
☐ c. The reviewers should be blinded.  
☐ d. All of the above.
7. When assessing the methodological quality of the studies included in the review, which of the following should be considered?  
☐ a. Each study may be assigned a score based on the strength of each aspect of its methodology.  
☐ b. The methodological score assigned is valid and reliable.  
☐ c. A Table comparing each methodological aspect of the studies is not useful.  
☐ d. All of the above.
8. Publication bias is defined as which of the following?  
☐ a. The reason a study is published is related to its outcome.  
☐ b. A study is published but not identified in the search strategy of a systematic review.  
☐ c. The reason a study is not published is related to its outcome.  
☐ d. None of the above.
9. Which of the following is true regarding a 'narrative' review?  
☐ a. Narrative reviews are generally written by an author who does not have an interest in the particular area of health care discussed.  
☐ b. Anything contrary to the author's argument is typically omitted.  
☐ c. Selective exclusion of studies that support the reviewer's point of view is common.  
☐ d. The process of writing a narrative review requires guidance to formal rules.
10. Counting the number of studies supporting either side of an issue and choosing the view receiving the most votes is unsound because of which of the following?  
☐ a. It ignores the research design of included studies.  
☐ b. It ignores the sample size of included studies.  
☐ c. It ignores the effect size of included studies.  
☐ d. All of the above.

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This quiz has been accredited by COCA at: **one(1), category "1" point.**

This multiple choice quiz is based on an article in Section 2 of this issue. Please read each of the above questions carefully and place an "X" in the box of the corresponding correct answer. Please note that there is only one correct answer to each question. Then provide your NAME where indicated below, remove this page and return to: COCA, PO Box 1010, RINGWOOD VIC 3134.

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